

Amendment No. 1 to SB2544

**Burchett
Signature of Sponsor**

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2544

House Bill No. 2482*

By adding the following new sections and redesignating the existing sections appropriately:

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 10, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new appropriately designated section:

37-10-308(a). Any foster parent, relative caregiver or other party having legal custody of a child shall have standing to initiate legal actions and conduct any necessary legal business on behalf of such child. Such foster parent, relative caregiver, or other party having legal custody of the child shall initiate such legal actions in the circuit or chancery courts of such child's residence, or in the county of such child's original residence. Such actions shall not be brought in any juvenile court of this state.

(b) A foster parent, relative caregiver, or other party having legal custody of a child may only initiate legal actions pursuant to this section if such foster parent, relative caregiver or legal custodian,

(1) maintained custody of the child for at least twelve (12) consecutive months, if the child is more than two (2) years of age, or

(2) if the child is less than two (2) years of age, maintained custody of the child for at least fifty percent (50%) of the child's total lifespan, as measured by the total number of days since birth, including the child's birthdate.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-113, is amended by designating subsection (b) as subdivision (b)(1) and adding the following as subdivision (b)(2):

Any foster parent, relative caregiver or other party having legal custody of a child shall have standing to file a petition pursuant to this part in accordance with T.C.A. 37-10-308.

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SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-415(a), is amended by adding the following as a new appropriately designated subdivision: Any foster parent or relative caregiver shall have standing to file a petition on behalf of the foster child in accordance with T.C.A. 37-10-308.